

A LIFE WELL SPENT — PROJECT BRIEF

Format

Feature Film

Genre / Tone

Sci-Fi Drama / Thriller

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind meets *The Father*, with the corporate unease of *Severance*.

Budget / Buyer Lane

Low-to-mid / contained, character-driven sci-fi

A24, Apple Original Films, Focus Features, FilmNation, Searchlight lane

Core Hook

A devoted husband sells his memories to pay for his wife's dementia care, slowly hollowing himself out while the billionaire who buys them becomes obsessed with the woman he now remembers loving.

One-Sentence Pitch

To keep his wife in a private memory-care facility, an elderly man sells the emotional weight of his life one memory at a time, only to become a colder and colder stranger while the billionaire buyer is overwhelmed by a love that was never his.

Why It's Timely

It taps into fears around aging, dementia care, medical debt, wealth inequality, memory as data, emotional commodification, and the question of what remains of love when the memories are gone.

Main Characters

Sam Frost — A loving husband with no money and a lifetime of emotional history. He sells his memories to protect Grace, but every sacrifice makes him less like the man who loved her.

Grace Frost — Sam's wife, living with dementia in a private care facility. She is losing her memories involuntarily while Sam chooses to give his away.

Wesley Martin — A billionaire who has everything except feeling. When he buys Sam's memories, he becomes addicted to the warmth of a life he never lived.

Curtis — Sam's best friend and moral witness. He sees Sam disappearing before Sam is able to admit what is happening.

Soren — The director of the memory-transfer company. Calm, clinical, and profit-minded, he treats human experience as inventory.

Story Snapshot

1. Sam is told he must come up with a large payment immediately or Grace will be moved out of her private memory-care facility.
2. Desperate, he goes to The Memory Bank and sells a painful childhood memory, discovering that he can lose the emotional wound but keep the cash.
3. As Grace's care costs keep rising, Sam sells more: trauma, joy, marriage, tenderness, and pieces of the life that made him himself.
4. Wesley, the billionaire buying Sam's memories, becomes flooded with Sam's emotional history and develops an impossible love for Grace.

5. By the time Wesley tracks Sam down, Sam has become a hollow, efficient caretaker who no longer understands what he gave up.

Ending / Final Image

Wesley forces the facility to attempt a dangerous procedure to return the memories to Sam. The data is destroyed, but Sam's emotional capacity is restored in a new, incomplete way. He meets Grace again almost as a stranger, and in the middle of their shared loss, they begin falling in love again.

Theme in One Line

Love is not only what we remember. It is what survives after memory fails.

Positioning

It's a contained emotional sci-fi drama about a man who sells the story of his life to protect the woman he loves — and discovers that memory can be taken, but love may leave a deeper mark.

Materials Available

One-pager and full screenplay available upon request or through the private script library.

RYAN CLARKE

Screenwriter & Playwright | Albuquerque, NM
Dark Comedy | Satire | Character Drama | Social Thriller

Ryan Clarke is an Albuquerque-based screenwriter and playwright whose work blends dark comedy, social satire, and intimate character drama. Across a slate of 20+ feature scripts, his stories often follow deeply flawed people pushed into impossible situations, finding humor, tension, and humanity in characters who are entirely in over their heads.

His screenwriting recognition includes Grand Prize Winner, 30th Annual Fade In Awards Comedy Competition (*#FightForNoah*); Semifinalist, 30th Annual Fade In Awards Comedy Competition (*The Trencherman*); 2026 Top 10 Finalist, ISA Table Read My Screenplay at Cannes (*A Walking Shadow*); 2026 Quarterfinalist, Finish Line Script Competition (*#FightForNoah*); two-time Semifinalist, ISA Emerging Screenwriters Competition (*Flashbang* and *Ghost of the Highway*); and four additional 2026 Honorable Mentions from Finish Line (*The Finalists*, *How to Be a Human: A Musical with No Songs*, *Ghost of the Highway*, and *Dead Signals*).

As a playwright, Ryan is a three-time winner of FUSION Theatre Company's short works festival, "The SEVEN", in 2024, 2025, and 2026. The stage version of *A Walking Shadow* was also selected in 2026 for The Road Theatre Company's 17th Summer Playwrights Festival.

CONTACT

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